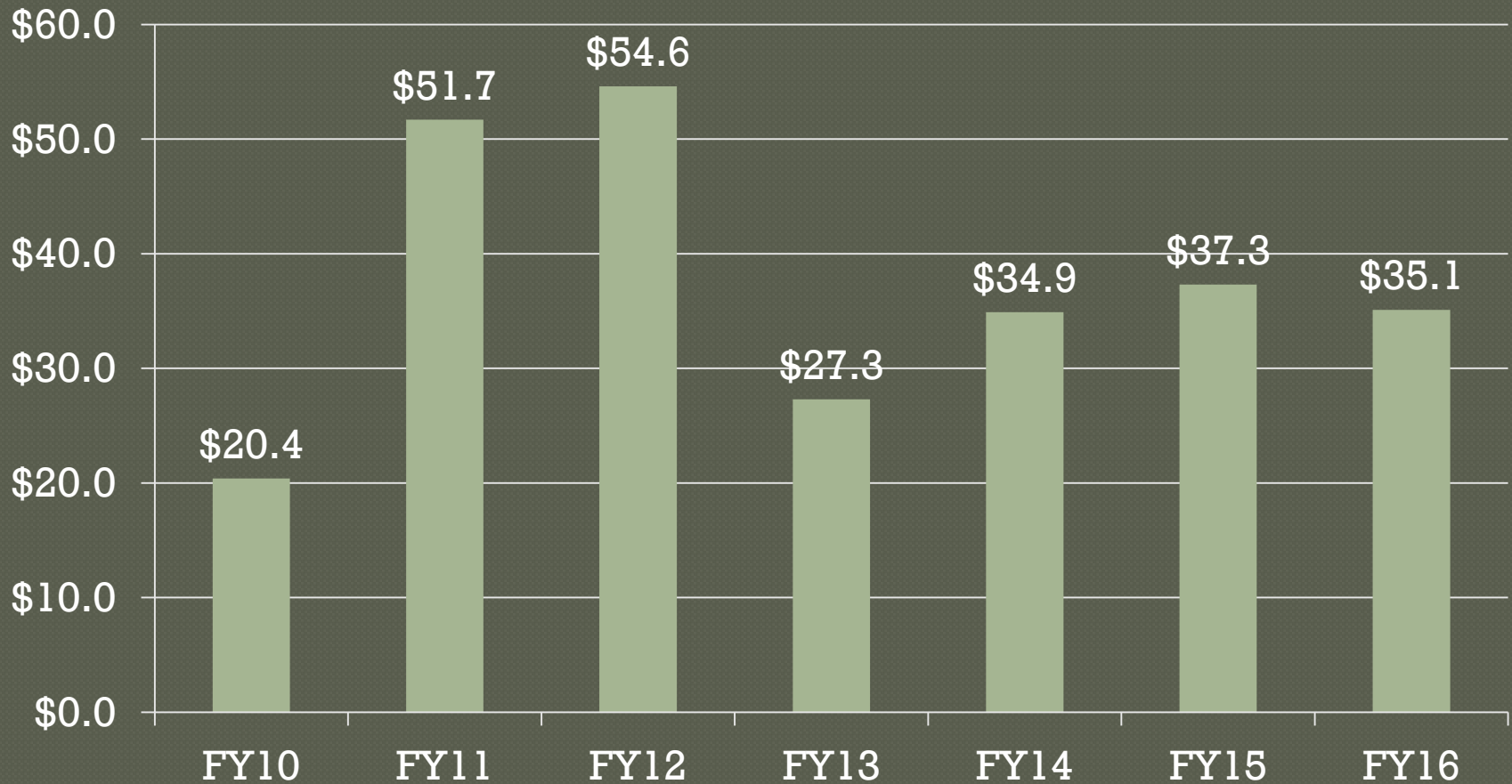


# Vermont's Transportation Future



Fall 2016

# Vermont Rail Budget



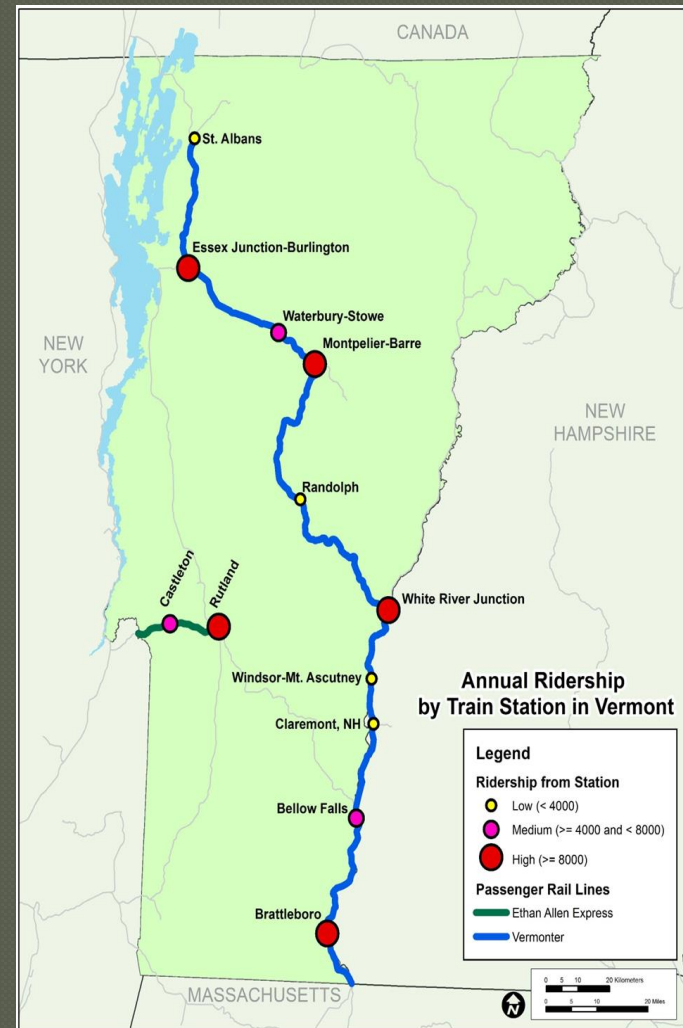
# Passenger Rail Expansion





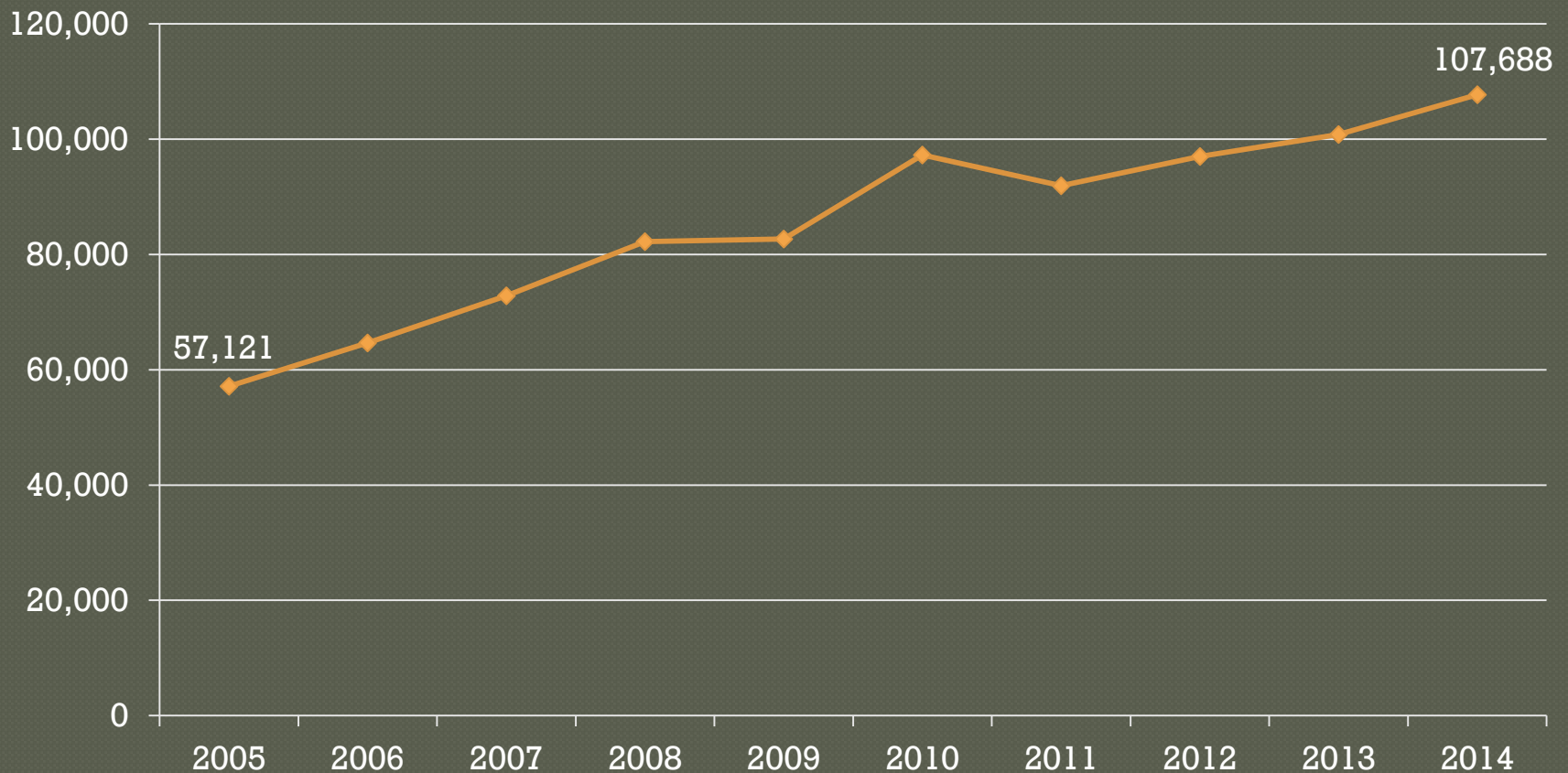
# Passenger Trains

- Vermont annually pays
- \$8 million to subsidize two passenger routes.
- Nearly all ridership on the Ethan Allen is interstate.
- The Vermonter has significant intra-state trips, which, which increased from 3% in 2004 to 12% in 2013, for a total of 8,400 riders.



# Passenger Train Ridership

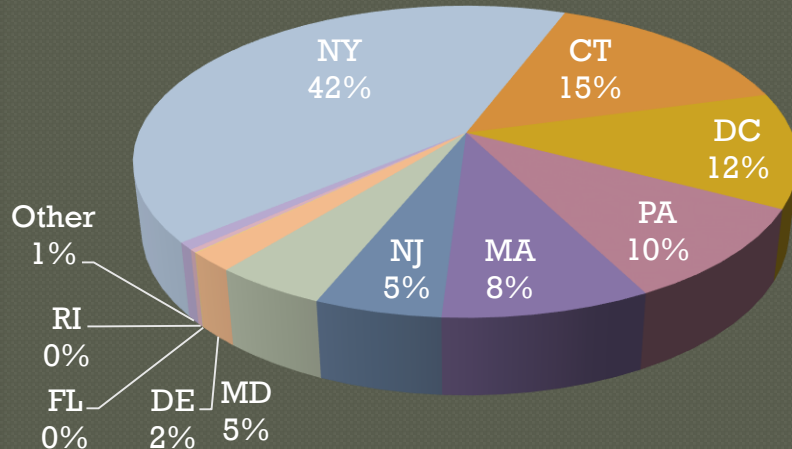
**Rail Ridership at Vermont Stations, 2005-2014**



# Where Passengers Travel To

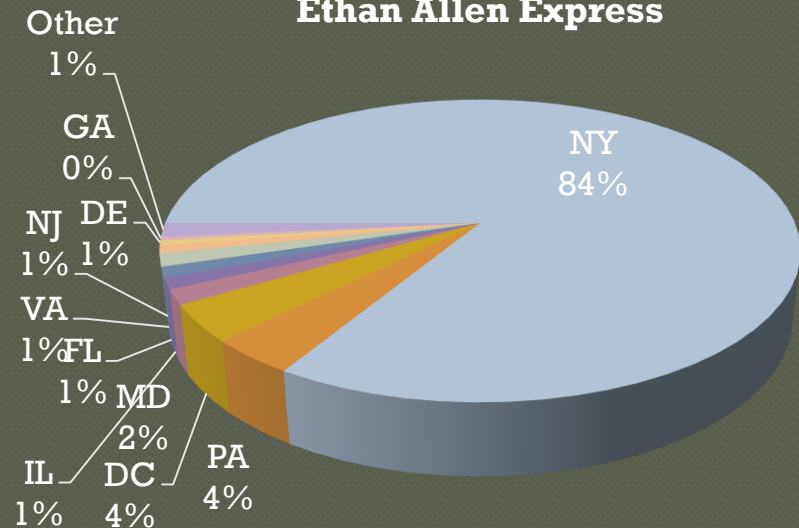
**Total Trips:**  
**79,803 (VT**  
**Stations, 2013)**

**Vermont**



**Total Trips:**  
**21,026**  
**(VT Stations,**  
**2013)**

**Ethan Allen Express**



# New Rail Services

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- ◉ Vermont Energy Plan has goal of 400,000 rail passengers by 2030.
- ◉ Western Corridor expansion from Rutland to Burlington – 2020/21 goal
- ◉ Montreal Extension for Vermonter – 2019 goal
- ◉ Brattleboro commuter service to Western Mass – goal 2017 or 2018
- ◉ VTrans commuter rail study between St. Albans and Montpelier due in January

# Rutland to Burlington

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- ◉ Resurface entire line for 59 mph speed
- ◉ \$100+ million total investment
- ◉ 11 miles of track left to complete
- ◉ Improve/Build three new stations
  - Middlebury
  - Vergennes
  - Burlington
- ◉ Middlebury tunnel 2-3 years to complete



# Rutland to Burlington

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## Ridership Estimates

- Amtrak working on this now.
- Big question is how many passengers it will steal from the Vermonter

Goal is to start  
in 2020/21



# Montreal Extension

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- U.S. & Canada Signed Treaty in 2015
- Things still to be worked out
  - U.S. Customs
  - Canada Customs
  - Ticket Station
  - Lease



# Montreal Extension

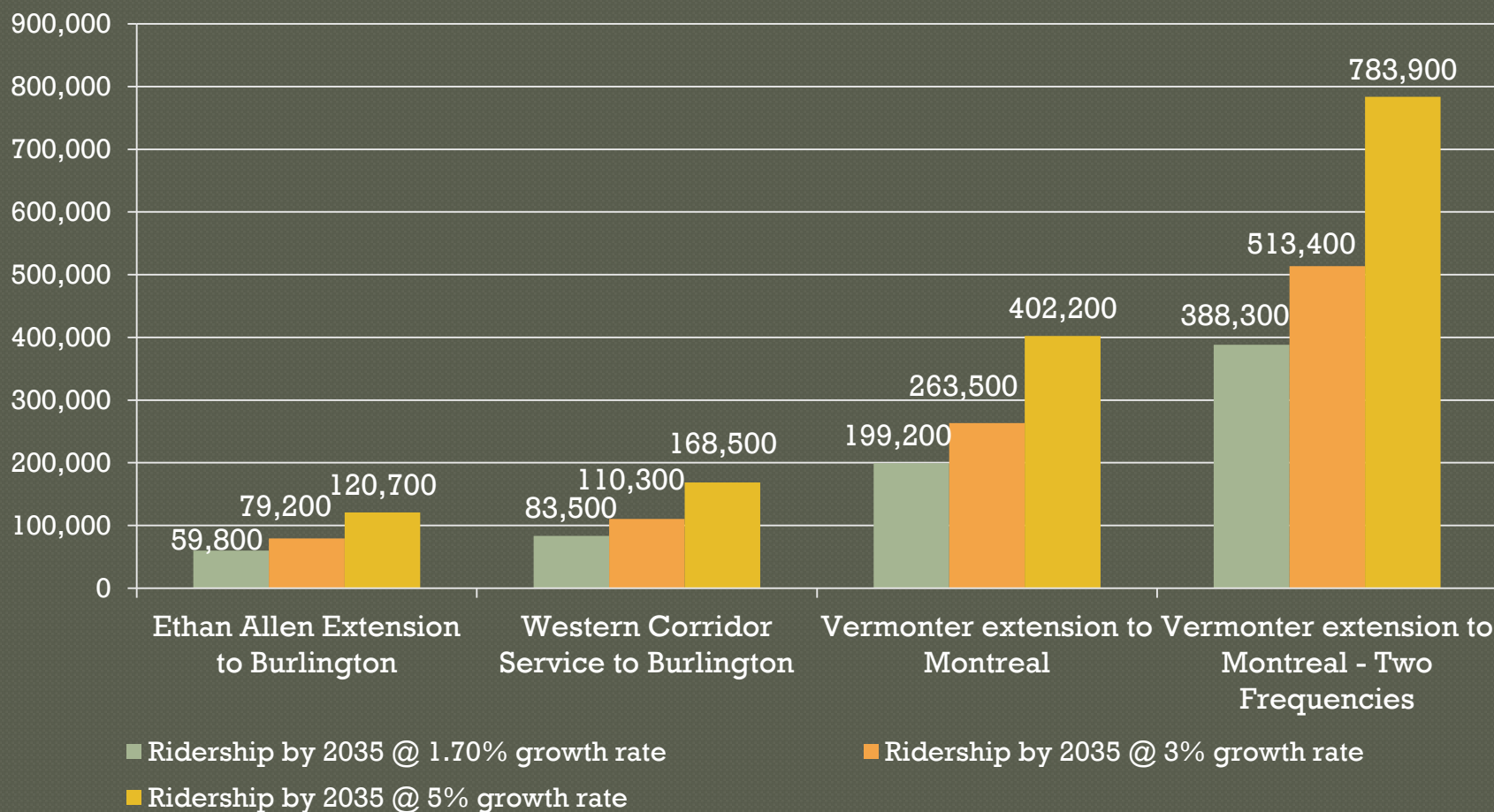
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## ● Other remaining issues

- Need time slot over Victoria rail bridge
- Can Amtrak personnel work in Canada?
- Canadian track improvements
- Who pays for train?
  - ❖ Current formula is pay by train miles
  - ❖ So Canada, Vermont, Connecticut and Mass?

## ● Goal is 2019 start to service

# Ridership Estimates for Vermont Stations in Year 2035



# Brattleboro Commuter Rail

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- Massachusetts initiative with stops in
  - Greenfield
  - North Hampton
  - Holyoke
  - Springfield
    - ❖ Springfield is hub, connections to Boston and Chicago
- Vermont hopes to add Brattleboro



# Brattleboro Commuter Rail

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## ● Remaining Issues

- Mass and New England Central RR must agree
- Not yet sure of frequency
- Cost unknown
- Hope to have details by summer 2017

# Railroads as Neighbors

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# Railroads as Neighbors

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- ◎ 578 Miles of active track in Vermont
- ◎ State owns 305 miles
- ◎ 94% operated by two companies
  - Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.
  - Vermont Rail Systems

# Railroad as Neighbors

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## ● Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.

- Nation's largest short line railroad
- 113 Subsidiary railroads
- 13,000 track miles in North America
- Operates two companies in Vermont
  - ❖ New England Central RR (191 miles)
  - ❖ St. Lawrence & Atlantic RR (31 miles)

# Railroads as Neighbors

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## ● Vermont Rail Systems

- Leases State-owned rail lines
- State pays for capitol improvements
- RR pays for track maintenance & freight operations
- Operates three subsidiaries
  - ❖ Vermont Railway (140 miles)
  - ❖ Green Mountain Railroad (50 miles)
  - ❖ Washington County Railroad (105 miles)



# Downtown Truck Traffic

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# Downtown Truck Traffic

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- How does Vermont freight move?
  - Trucks carry 83.4 percent
  - Rail carries 16.5 percent
  - Air carries 0.1 percent



# Downtown Truck Traffic

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## ● Freight Rail in Vermont

- 52 million total tons annually
  - ❖ 38% through
  - ❖ 36% inbound
  - ❖ 16% outbound
  - ❖ 10% intra

# Downtown Truck Traffic

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## ◉ What moves on rail in Vermont?

- 17% pulp, paper & allied products
- 16% clay, concrete, glass & stone
- 12% lumber, wood & furniture
- 12% chemicals & allied products
- 9% coal
- 8% petroleum
- 7% feed or kindred products
- 5% non-metallic minerals

# Downtown Truck Traffic

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## ● Projected growth

- 52 million tons now, 70 million tons projected by 2035
  - ❖ 43 percent growth rate
  - ❖ Annualized at 1.28 percent
  - ❖ Projection done in 2007
  - ❖ Recession likely altered these numbers



# Railside Development



# Railside Development

## ● Property Development

- Rail in Vermont is about 150 years old
- Property near rail was once plentiful
- Land today is developed without rail in mind



RRPictureArchives.NET Image Contributed by Fritz Gerhardt

# Railside Development

- Specific Property is needed
  - Land must be along tracks
  - Land physically must be able to handle rail
- Need to plan and zone land for rail
- VT Rail Network IDing property



RRPictureArchives.NET Image Copyright Billy Stone



# Railroad Safety



# Railroad Safety

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## ● Crossings

- 400 public crossings
- VTrans inspects them annually
- Determines needed devices
- Priority Western Corridor due to new service
- Every crossing will have lights before new service begins



# Railroad Safety

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## ● Emergency Incidents

- VT Fire & Safety has training program
- VT Emergency Management stays informed of what moves through Vermont

## ● Trespassing & Crashes

- 7 accidents/5 deaths in 12 months
- Trespass fine now \$200, was \$25
- VTTrans has 50% employee – Operation lifesaver
  - ❖ Focus on crossings

# Vermont's Transportation Future

Thanks for  
participating!